

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 8, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 3, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 83

**Introduced by Assembly Member Buchanan
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Levine)**

January 14, 2014

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 83—Relative to Alcohol Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 83, as amended, Buchanan. Alcohol Awareness Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of April 2014 as Alcohol Awareness Month in California.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Alcohol is the most commonly used addictive
2 substance in the United States; and
3 WHEREAS, One in every 12 adults in the United States (17.6
4 million people) suffer from alcohol abuse or dependence; and
5 WHEREAS, Nationwide, 100,000 persons die each year from
6 alcohol-related causes, including, but not limited to, drinking and
7 driving crashes, other accidents, falls, fires, alcohol-related
8 homicides, and suicides; and
9 WHEREAS, Alcohol-related problems cost the United States
10 \$224 billion (\$746 per person) in lost productivity, absenteeism,
11 health care costs, crime, and family-related problems; and

1 WHEREAS, In 2012, 28 percent of all traffic deaths in
2 California were a result of drinking and driving; and

3 WHEREAS, In 2010, underage drinking in California cost the
4 state and its citizens \$6.8 billion, including medical care and lost
5 time at work; and

6 WHEREAS, Young people who begin drinking before 15 years
7 of age are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence
8 than those who begin drinking at 21 years of age; and

9 WHEREAS, Alcohol Justice and Writers in Treatment are
10 coproducing the REEL Recovery Film Festival—San Francisco
11 Bay Area Edition, April 24 to 27, 2014, inclusive, to more publicly
12 and effectively bring alcoholism and addiction out of the closet,
13 reduce the stigma, and raise public awareness ~~that it is not a moral~~
14 ~~failing but a devastating disease that, like other potentially fatal~~
15 ~~diseases, requires specialized treatment, and to encourage public~~
16 ~~policy advocacy for the prevention of alcohol and other~~
17 ~~drug-related harm; and~~

18 WHEREAS, Screening for Mental Health, Inc., will hold
19 National Alcohol Screening Day (NASD) on April 10, 2014, as
20 an outreach, education, and screening program that will raise
21 awareness about alcohol misuse and refers individuals with alcohol
22 problems for further treatment, and since the inception of NASD
23 in 1999, thousands of colleges, universities, community-based
24 organizations, and military installations provide the program to
25 the public each year; and

26 WHEREAS, The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug
27 Dependence, Inc. ~~is sponsors~~ Alcohol Awareness Month, held
28 every April, ~~increases to increase~~ public awareness and
29 understanding aimed at reducing the stigma associated with
30 alcoholism that too often prevents individuals and families from
31 seeking help; now, therefore, be it

32 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
33 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature joins the National Council
34 on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. and hereby recognizes
35 April 2014 as Alcohol Awareness Month in California, and calls
36 upon all citizens, parents, governmental agencies, public and
37 private institutions, businesses, hospitals, schools, and colleges in
38 California to support efforts that will reduce stigma, increase
39 community awareness, and increase support for individuals and
40 families coping with alcoholism; and be it further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 2 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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